MARVEL™

© 1987 Hasbro Inc © 1987 Marvel Comics Ltd

3rd Jan. 87
No 94 30p
U.S. $1.25 CAN. $1.75

# THE TRANSFORMERS™

HEROIC AUTOBOT

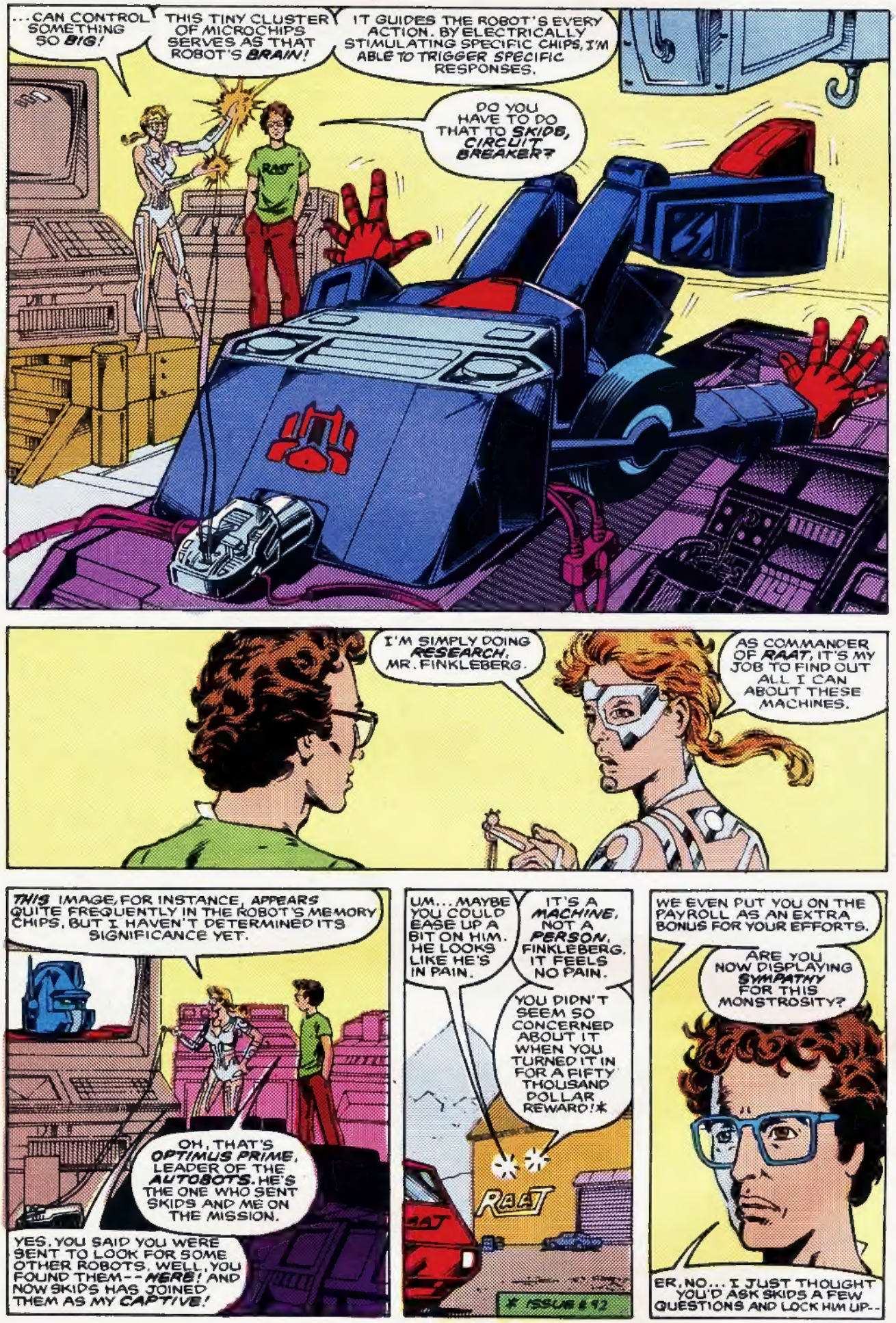
## BATTLE CHARGERS...

## THE FASTEST TRANSFORMERS ON EARTH!

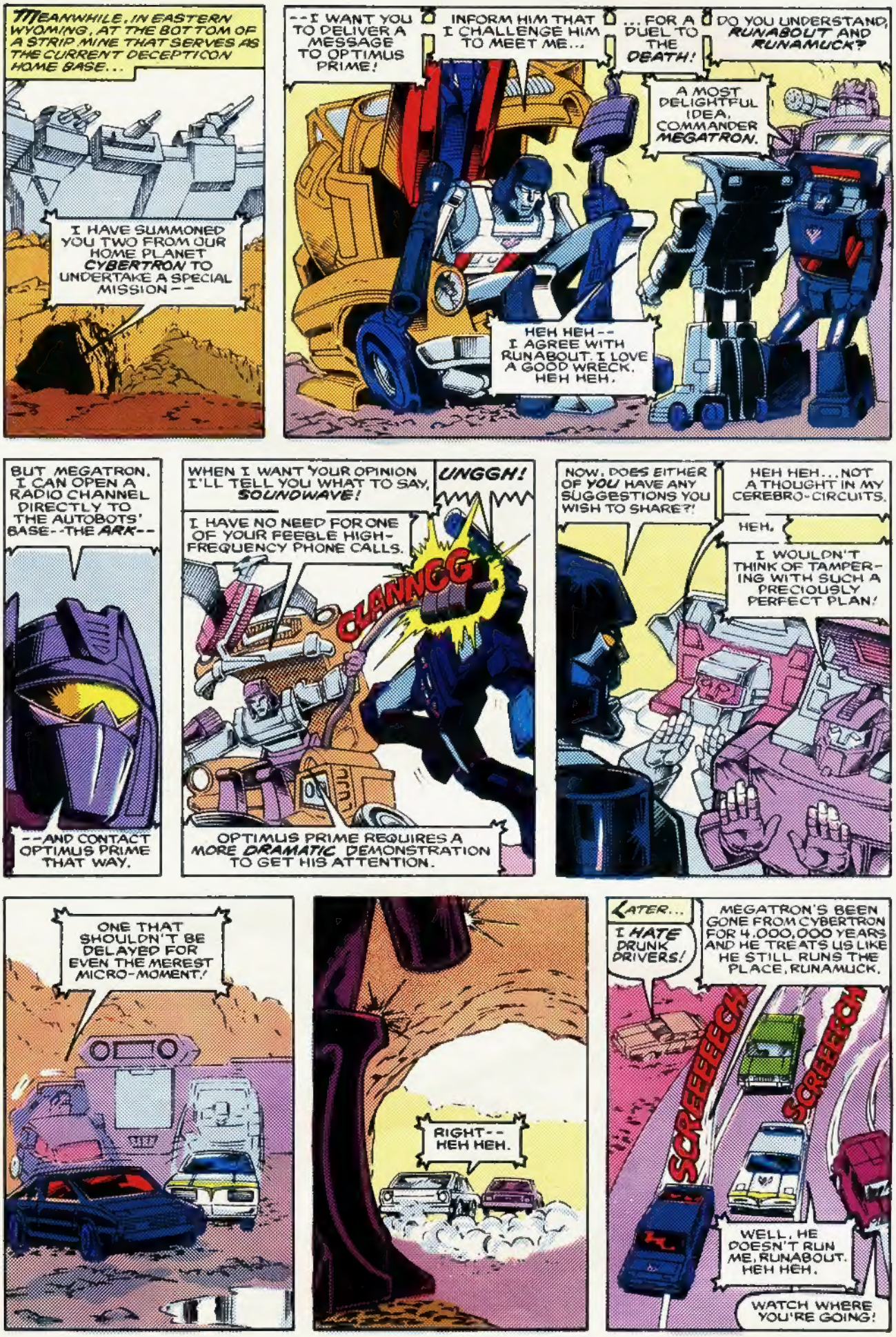
# TRANSFORMERS™

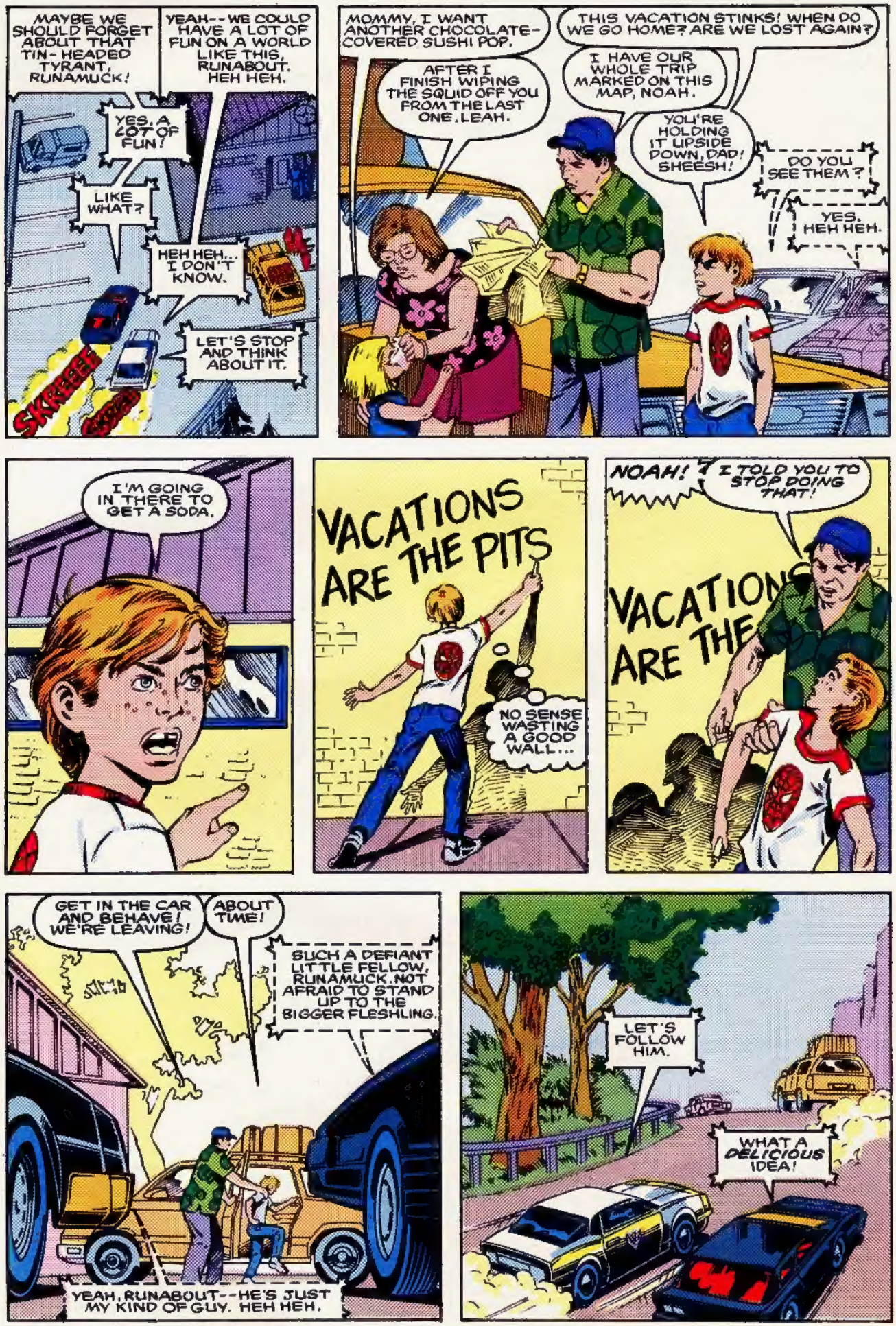
# DECEPTICON GRAFFITI!

AT RAAT'S HEADQUARTERS, SOMEWHERE IN SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY...
IT'S INTRIGUING...
...THAT SOMETHING SO SMALL...
WRITER - BOB BUDIANSKY
PENCILLER - DON PERLIN
INKERS - IAN AKIN & BRIAN GARVEY
LETTERER - JANICE CHIANG
COLOURIST - NEL YOMTOV
EDITOR - DON DALEY
EDITOR IN CHIEF - JIM SHOOTER
*RAPID ANTI-ROBOT ASSAULT TEAM, A TOP-SECRET U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY CREATED TO DESTROY THE TRANSFORMERS.

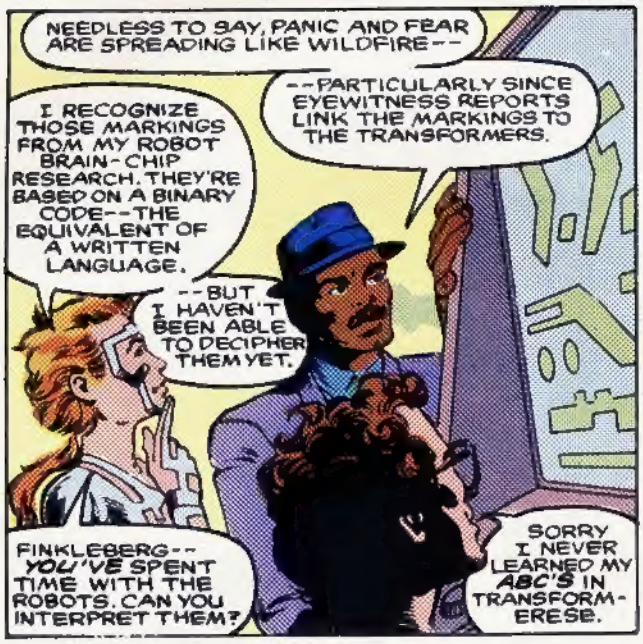

...CAN CONTROL SOMETHING SO BIG!
THIS TINY CLUSTER OF MICROCHIPS SERVES AS THAT ROBOT'S BRAIN!
IT GUIDES THE ROBOT'S EVERY ACTION. BY ELECTRICALLY STIMULATING SPECIFIC CHIPS, I'M ABLE TO TRIGGER SPECIFIC RESPONSES.
DO YOU HAVE TO DO THAT TO SKIDS, CIRCUIT BREAKER?
I'M SIMPLY DOING RESEARCH, MR. FINKLEBERG.
AS COMMANDER OF RAAT, IT'S MY JOB TO FIND OUT ALL I CAN ABOUT THESE MACHINES.
THIS IMAGE, FOR INSTANCE, APPEARS QUITE FREQUENTLY IN THE ROBOT'S MEMORY CHIPS, BUT I HAVEN'T DETERMINED ITS SIGNIFICANCE YET.
OH, THAT'S OPTIMUS PRIME, LEADER OF THE AUTOBOTS. HE'S THE ONE WHO SENT SKIDS AND ME ON THE MISSION.
YES, YOU SAID YOU WERE SENT TO LOOK FOR SOME OTHER ROBOTS. WELL, YOU FOUND THEM--HERE! AND NOW SKIDS HAS JOINED THEM AS MY CAPTIVE!
UM... MAYBE YOU COULD EASE UP A BIT ON HIM. HE LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN PAIN.
IT'S A MACHINE, NOT A PERSON, FINKLEBERG. IT FEELS NO PAIN.
YOU DIDN'T SEEM SO CONCERNED ABOUT IT WHEN YOU TURNED IT IN FOR A FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLAR REWARD!*
RAAT
* ISSUE #12
WE EVEN PUT YOU ON THE PAYROLL AS AN EXTRA BONUS FOR YOUR EFFORTS.
ARE YOU NOW DISPLAYING SYMPATHY FOR THIS MONSTROSITY?
ER, NO... I JUST THOUGHT YOU'D ASK SKIDS A FEW QUESTIONS AND LOCK HIM UP--

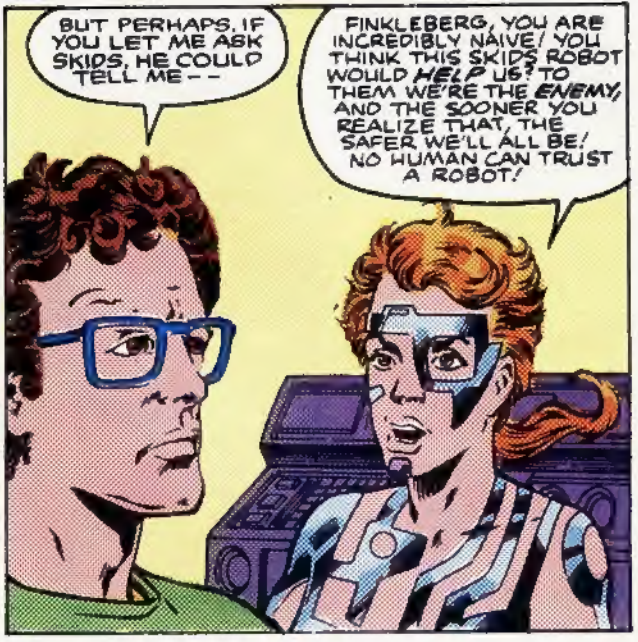
--NOT DISSECT HIM!
PERHAPS IF YOU HAD EXPERIENCED WHAT I HAD AT THE HANDS OF THESE ROBOTS, YOU'D THINK TWICE ABOUT COMING TO THEIR DEFENSE.
"I WAS WORKING AS A COMPUTER PROGRAMMER AT THE TIME OF THE ROBOTS' ATTACK.
"THE ATTACK TRIGGERED A POWERFUL ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE.
"I SUFFERED SEVERE NEUROLOGICAL DAMAGE.
"I SWORE TO MYSELF THAT, IF I SURVIVED, I WOULD DO EVERYTHING I COULD TO STOP THESE ROBOTS PERMANENTLY, TO MAKE SURE THAT WHAT HAPPENED TO ME WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN!
I DESIGNED THIS BODY-SUIT TO DUPLICATE THE FUNCTIONS OF MY DAMAGED NERVOUS SYSTEM...
...AND TO INCLUDE OTHER, EXTRA ABILITIES, AS WELL.
IT'S HELPED ME WITH MY WORK. I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THIRTEEN OF THESE MECHANICAL MENACES SO FAR, AND THAT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.
THERE ARE MANY MORE TO GO.
SILVERBOLT
POWER GLIDE
WARPATH
SLINGSHOT
COSMOS
BLAS
GREAT! THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING, SHE'LL CONTINUE TO PUT GOOD-GUY AUTOBOTS OUT OF COMMISSION, LIKE SHE'S DONE SO FAR...
...LEAVING THE BAD-GUY DECEPTICONS TO DO WHATEVER THEY WANT ON THIS PLANET!
AND I HELPED.
GREAT.

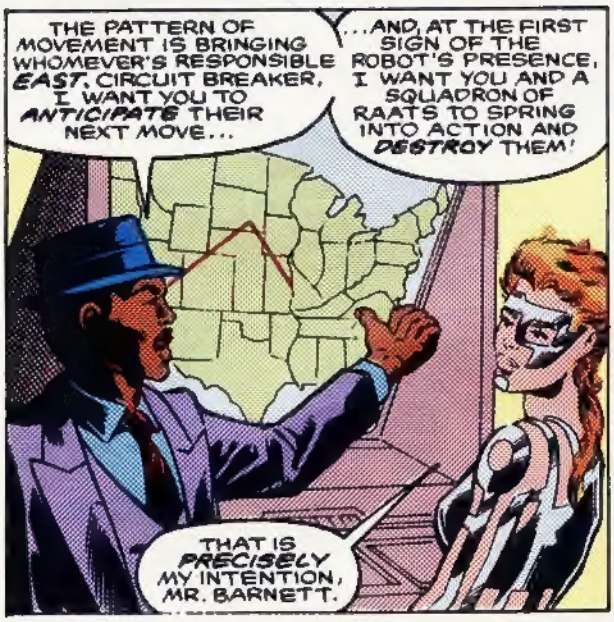

MEANWHILE, IN EASTERN WYOMING, AT THE BOTTOM OF A STRIP MINE THAT SERVES AS THE CURRENT DECEPTICON HOME BASE...
I HAVE SUMMONED YOU TWO FROM OUR HOME PLANET CYBERTRON TO UNDERTAKE A SPECIAL MISSION--
--I WANT YOU TO DELIVER A MESSAGE TO OPTIMUS PRIME!
INFORM HIM THAT I CHALLENGE HIM TO MEET ME...
...FOR A DUEL TO THE DEATH!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND, RUNABOUT AND RUNAMUCK?
A MOST DELIGHTFUL IDEA, COMMANDER MEGATRON.
HEH HEH-- I AGREE WITH RUNABOUT. I LOVE A GOOD WRECK. HEH HEH.
BUT MEGATRON, I CAN OPEN A RADIO CHANNEL DIRECTLY TO THE AUTOBOTS' BASE--THE ARK--
--AND CONTACT OPTIMUS PRIME THAT WAY.
WHEN I WANT YOUR OPINION I'LL TELL YOU WHAT TO SAY, SOUNDWAVE!
UNGGH!
I HAVE NO NEED FOR ONE OF YOUR FEEBLE HIGH-FREQUENCY PHONE CALLS.
CLANNGG
OPTIMUS PRIME REQUIRES A MORE DRAMATIC DEMONSTRATION TO GET HIS ATTENTION.
NOW, DOES EITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS YOU WISH TO SHARE?!
HEH HEH... NOT A THOUGHT IN MY CEREBRO-CIRCUITS.
HEH.
I WOULDN'T THINK OF TAMPERING WITH SUCH A PRECIOUSLY PERFECT PLAN!
ONE THAT SHOULDN'T BE DELAYED FOR EVEN THE MEREST MICRO-MOMENT!
RIGHT-- HEH HEH.
LATER...
I HATE DRUNK DRIVERS!
MEGATRON'S BEEN GONE FROM CYBERTRON FOR 4,000,000 YEARS AND HE TREATS US LIKE HE STILL RUNS THE PLACE, RUNAMUCK.
SCREEEECH
SCREEECH
WELL, HE DOESN'T RUN ME, RUNABOUT. HEH HEH.
WATCH WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

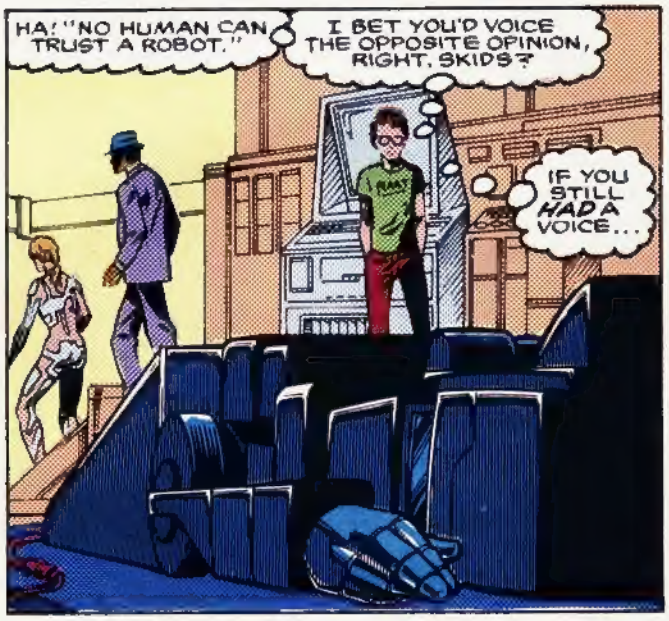

MAYBE WE SHOULD FORGET ABOUT THAT TIN-HEADED TYRANT, RUNAMUCK!
YEAH--WE COULD HAVE A LOT OF FUN ON A WORLD LIKE THIS, RUNABOUT. HEH HEH.
YES. A LOT OF FUN!
LIKE WHAT?
HEH HEH... I DON'T KNOW.
LET'S STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT.
SKREEEE!
MOMMY, I WANT ANOTHER CHOCOLATE-COVERED SUSHI POP.
AFTER I FINISH WIPING THE SQUID OFF YOU FROM THE LAST ONE, LEAH.
THIS VACATION STINKS! WHEN DO WE GO HOME? ARE WE LOST AGAIN?
I HAVE OUR WHOLE TRIP MARKED ON THIS MAP, NOAH.
YOU'RE HOLDING IT UPSIDE DOWN, DAD! SHEESH!
DO YOU SEE THEM?
YES. HEH HEH.
I'M GOING IN THERE TO GET A SODA.
VACATIONS ARE THE PITS
NO SENSE WASTING A GOOD WALL...
NOAH!
I TOLD YOU TO STOP DOING THAT!
VACATIONS ARE THE
GET IN THE CAR AND BEHAVE! WE'RE LEAVING!
ABOUT TIME!
SUCH A DEFIANT LITTLE FELLOW, RUNAMUCK. NOT AFRAID TO STAND UP TO THE BIGGER FLESHLING.
YEAH, RUNABOUT--HE'S JUST MY KIND OF GUY. HEH HEH.
LET'S FOLLOW HIM.
WHAT A DELICIOUS IDEA!

THREE DAYS LATER, AT RAAT HEADQUARTERS, WALTER BARNETT, THE RAAT LIAISON OFFICER FROM I.I.I.*, ARRIVES BY HELICOPTER...
RAAT
*INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE INSTITUTE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AGENCY THAT OVERSEES RAAT.
MR. BARNETT! GOOD TO SEE YOU!
HELLO, DONNY.
LOOK, I APPRECIATE THE JOB AND ALL, BUT IF I'M NO LONGER NEEDED HERE MAYBE I COULD GO HOME...
BUT YOU ARE NEEDED, DONNY! COME WITH ME!
CIRCUIT BREAKER! SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR RESEARCH, BUT I'LL THINK YOU WANT TO SEE THIS!
YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD ABOUT THIS FROM THE NEWS REPORTS-- WEIRD MARKINGS POPPING UP ALL OVER THE WEST IN THE LAST 72 HOURS.
FIRST, A FOOTBALL STADIUM IN WYOMING.
HOME
VISITORS
"THEN, MOUNT RUSHMORE IN SOUTH DAKOTA.
"AND FINALLY, THE GATEWAY ARCH IN ST. LOUIS."

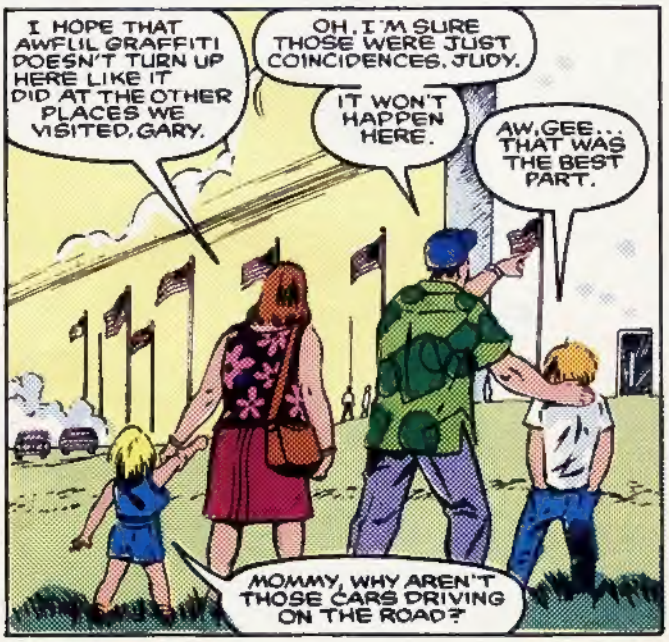

NEEDLESS TO SAY, PANIC AND FEAR ARE SPREADING LIKE WILDFIRE--
--PARTICULARLY SINCE EYEWITNESS REPORTS LINK THE MARKINGS TO THE TRANSFORMERS.
I RECOGNIZE THOSE MARKINGS FROM MY ROBOT BRAIN-CHIP RESEARCH. THEY'RE BASED ON A BINARY CODE--THE EQUIVALENT OF A WRITTEN LANGUAGE.
--BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO DECIPHER THEM YET.
FINKLEBERG--YOU'VE SPENT TIME WITH THE ROBOTS. CAN YOU INTERPRET THEM?
SORRY I NEVER LEARNED MY ABC'S IN TRANSFORM-ERESE.

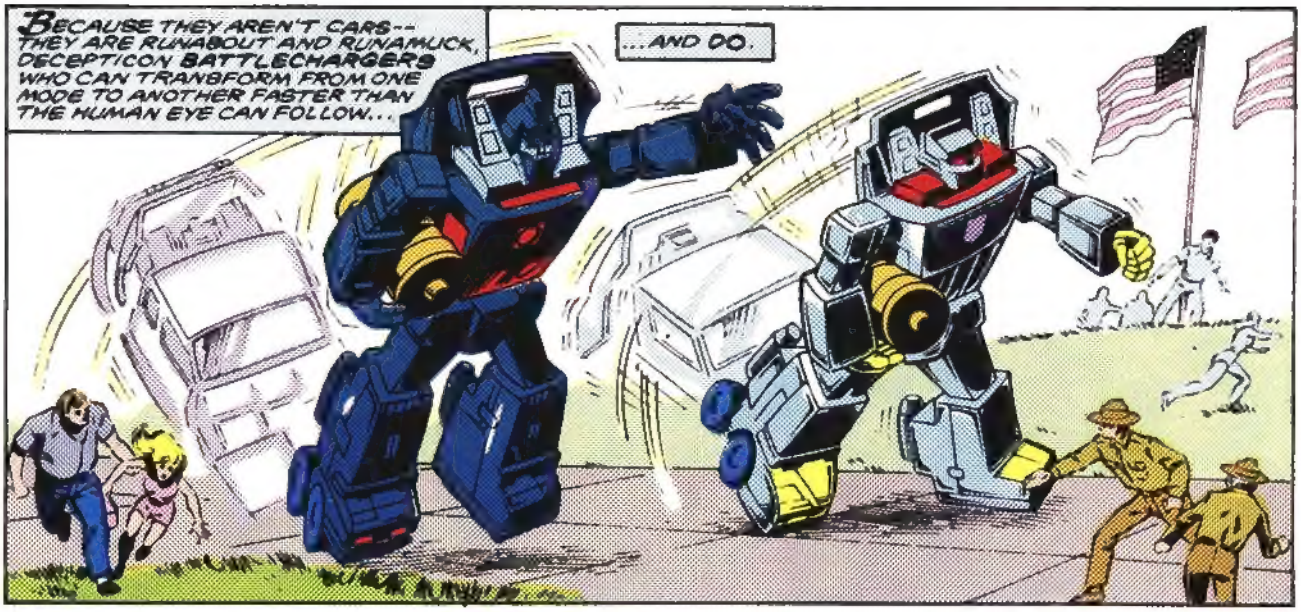

BUT PERHAPS, IF YOU LET ME ASK SKIDS, HE COULD TELL ME--
FINKLEBERG, YOU ARE INCREDIBLY NAIVE! YOU THINK THIS SKIDS ROBOT WOULD HELP US? TO THEM WE'RE THE ENEMY, AND THE SOONER YOU REALIZE THAT, THE SAFER WE'LL ALL BE! NO HUMAN CAN TRUST A ROBOT!

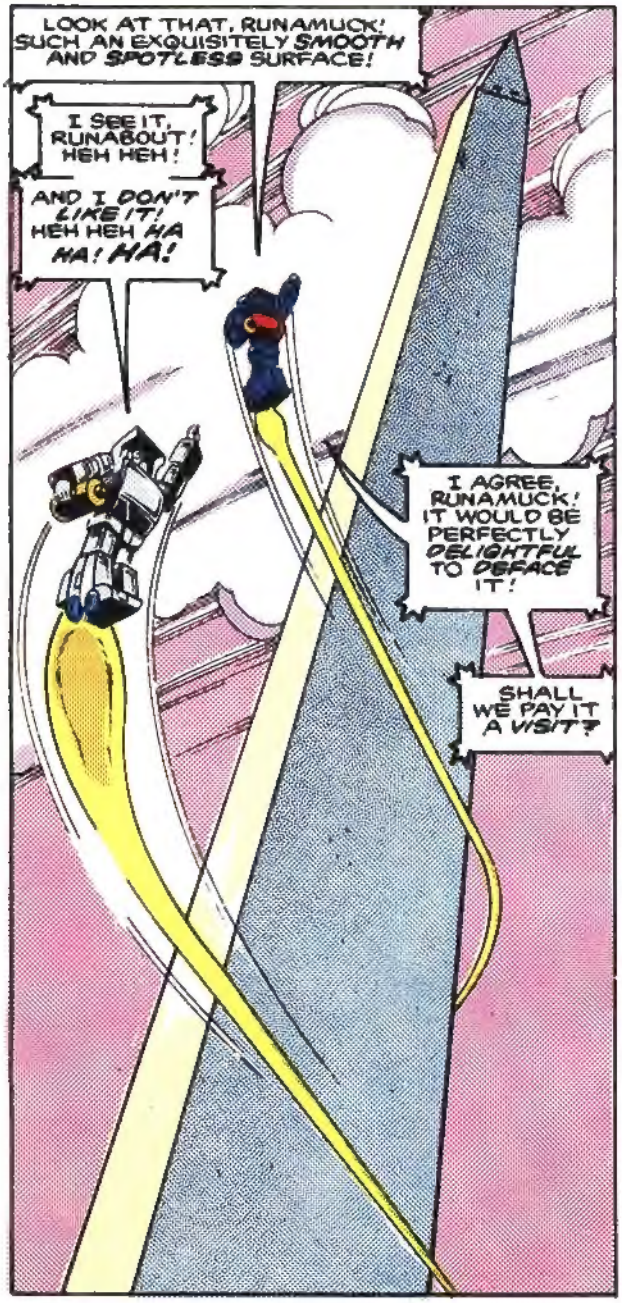

THE PATTERN OF MOVEMENT IS BRINGING WHOMEVER'S RESPONSIBLE EAST. CIRCUIT BREAKER, I WANT YOU TO ANTICIPATE THEIR NEXT MOVE...
...AND, AT THE FIRST SIGN OF THE ROBOT'S PRESENCE, I WANT YOU AND A SQUADRON OF RAATS TO SPRING INTO ACTION AND DESTROY THEM!
THAT IS PRECISELY MY INTENTION, MR. BARNETT.


HA! "NO HUMAN CAN TRUST A ROBOT."
I BET YOU'D VOICE THE OPPOSITE OPINION, RIGHT, SKIDS?
IF YOU STILL HAD A VOICE...

WASHINGTON, D.C., THE NEXT MORNING...
LOOK, SON, THAT'S THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT!
BIG DEAL! IT LOOKS LIKE A TOOTHPICK FOR KING KONG!


I HOPE THAT AWFUL GRAFFITI DOESN'T TURN UP HERE LIKE IT DID AT THE OTHER PLACES WE VISITED, GARY.
OH, I'M SURE THOSE WERE JUST COINCIDENCES, JUDY.
IT WON'T HAPPEN HERE.
AW, GEE... THAT WAS THE BEST PART.
MOMMY, WHY AREN'T THOSE CARS DRIVING ON THE ROAD?

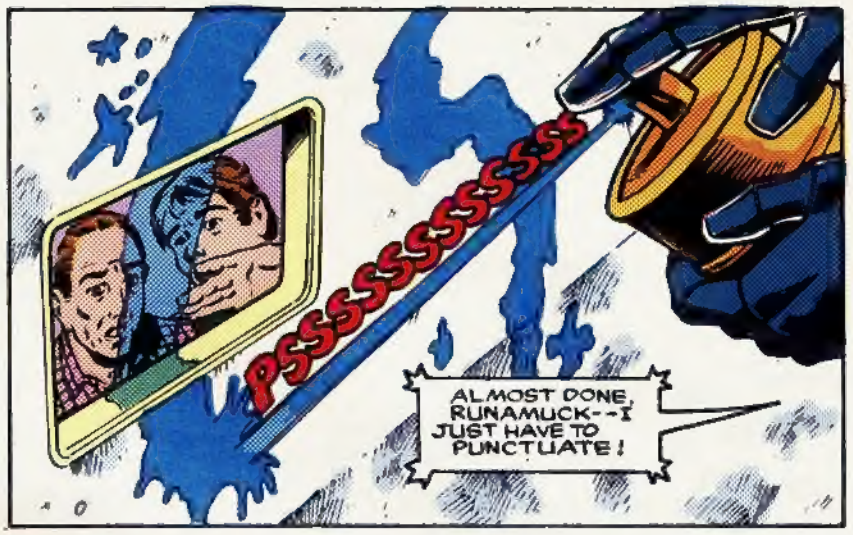

BECAUSE THEY AREN'T CARS--THEY ARE RUNABOUT AND RUNAMUCK, DECEPTICON BATTLECHARGERS WHO CAN TRANSFORM FROM ONE MODE TO ANOTHER FASTER THAN THE HUMAN EYE CAN FOLLOW...
...AND DO.

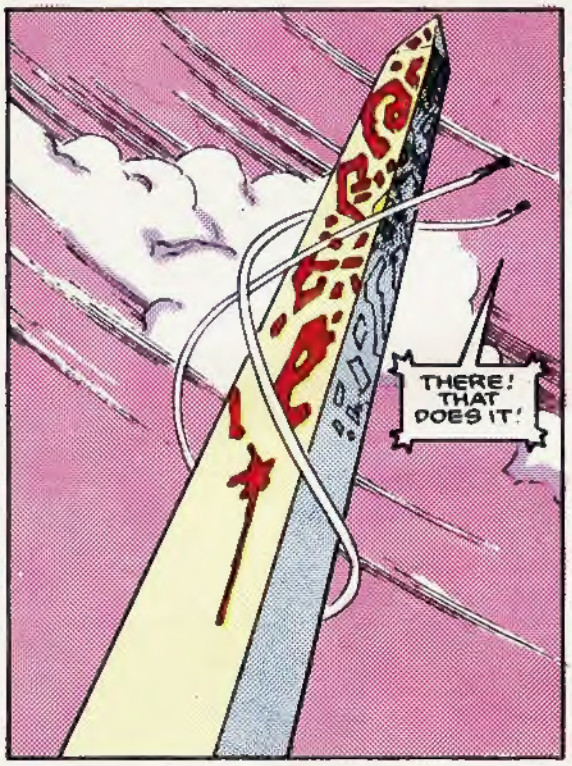

LOOK AT THAT, RUNAMUCK! SUCH AN EXQUISITELY SMOOTH AND SPOTLESS SURFACE!
I SEE IT, RUNABOUT! HEH HEH!
AND I DON'T LIKE IT! HEH HEH HA HA! HA!
I AGREE, RUNAMUCK! IT WOULD BE PERFECTLY DELIGHTFUL TO DEFACE IT!
SHALL WE PAY IT A VISIT?

WOULDYA LOOK AT THAT?!
WOWEE! THIS IS GREAT! AWESOME!

HEH HEH HEH! LET'S TELL THE FLESHLINGS WHAT WE THINK OF THEM! HEH HEH HEH!
OH, RUNAMUCK, WHAT A WONDERFULLY WICKED THING TO WRITE! YOU REALLY DO HAVE A TALENT FOR THE ONE-LINER!
YOURS IS FUNNY, TOO, RUNABOUT. IT MAKES ME LAUGH.
HEH HEH.

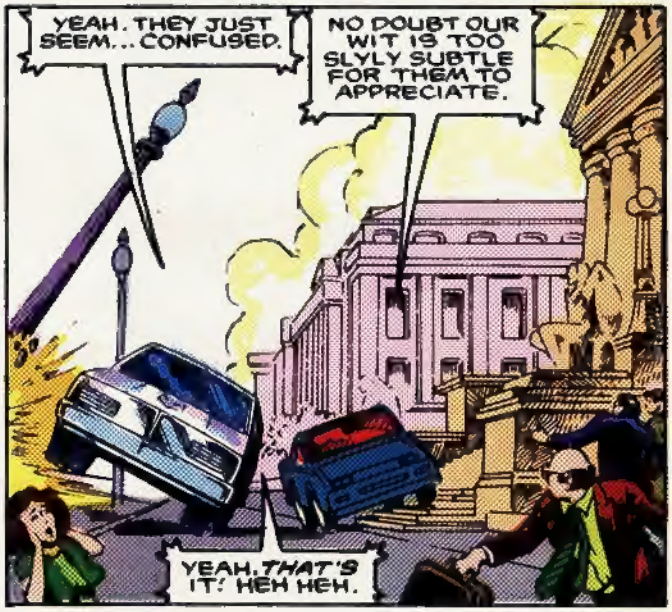
AND ON THE GROUND BELOW...
I'VE CONTACTED THE DEFENCE DEPARTMENT! THE AIR FORCE IS SCRAMBLING A SQUADRON OF F-16'S EVEN AS WE SPEAK!
I HOPE EACH ONE IS EQUIPPED WITH A GIANT ERASER ON ITS NOSE CONE!

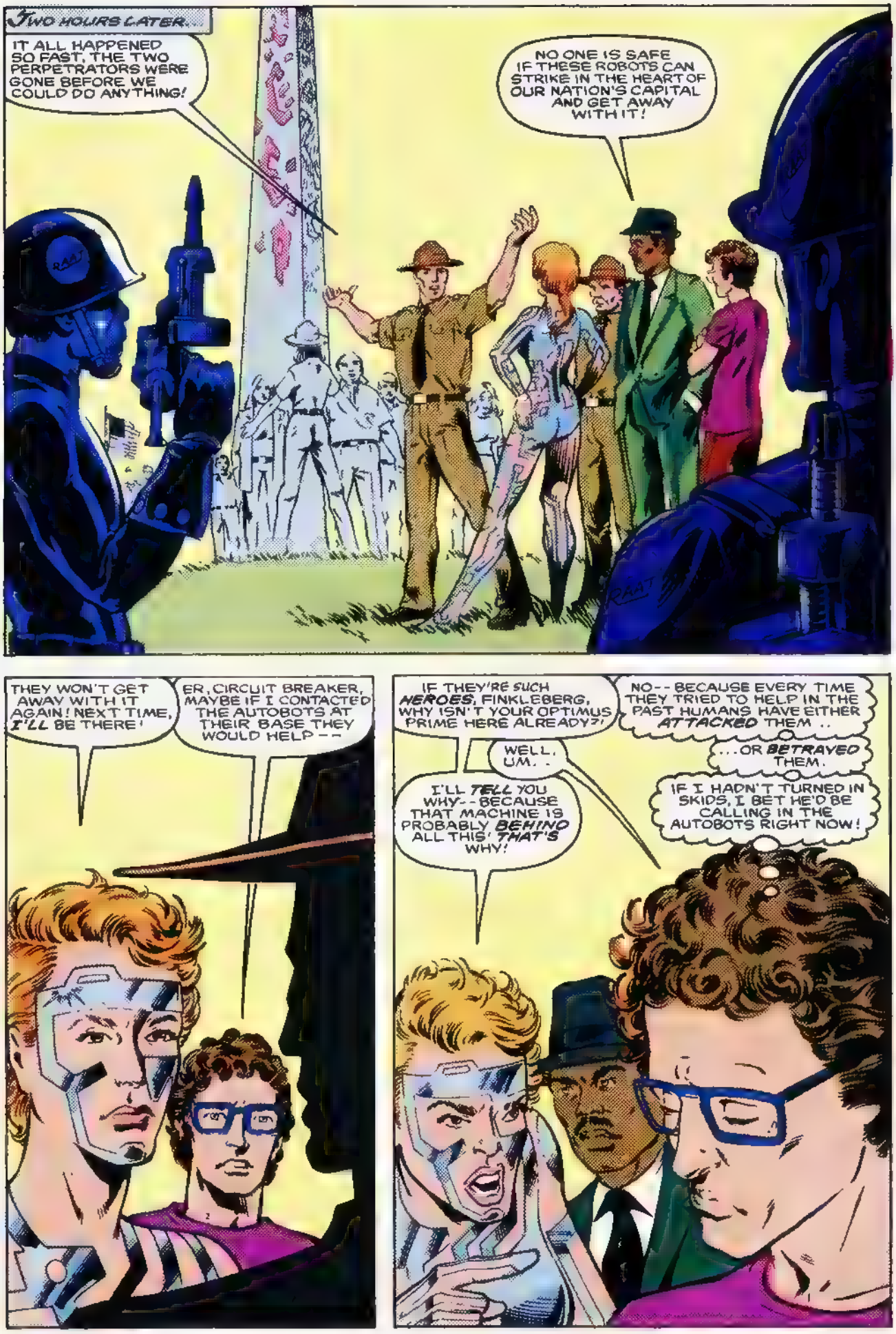

PSSSSSSSSS
ALMOST DONE, RUNAMUCK--I JUST HAVE TO PUNCTUATE!

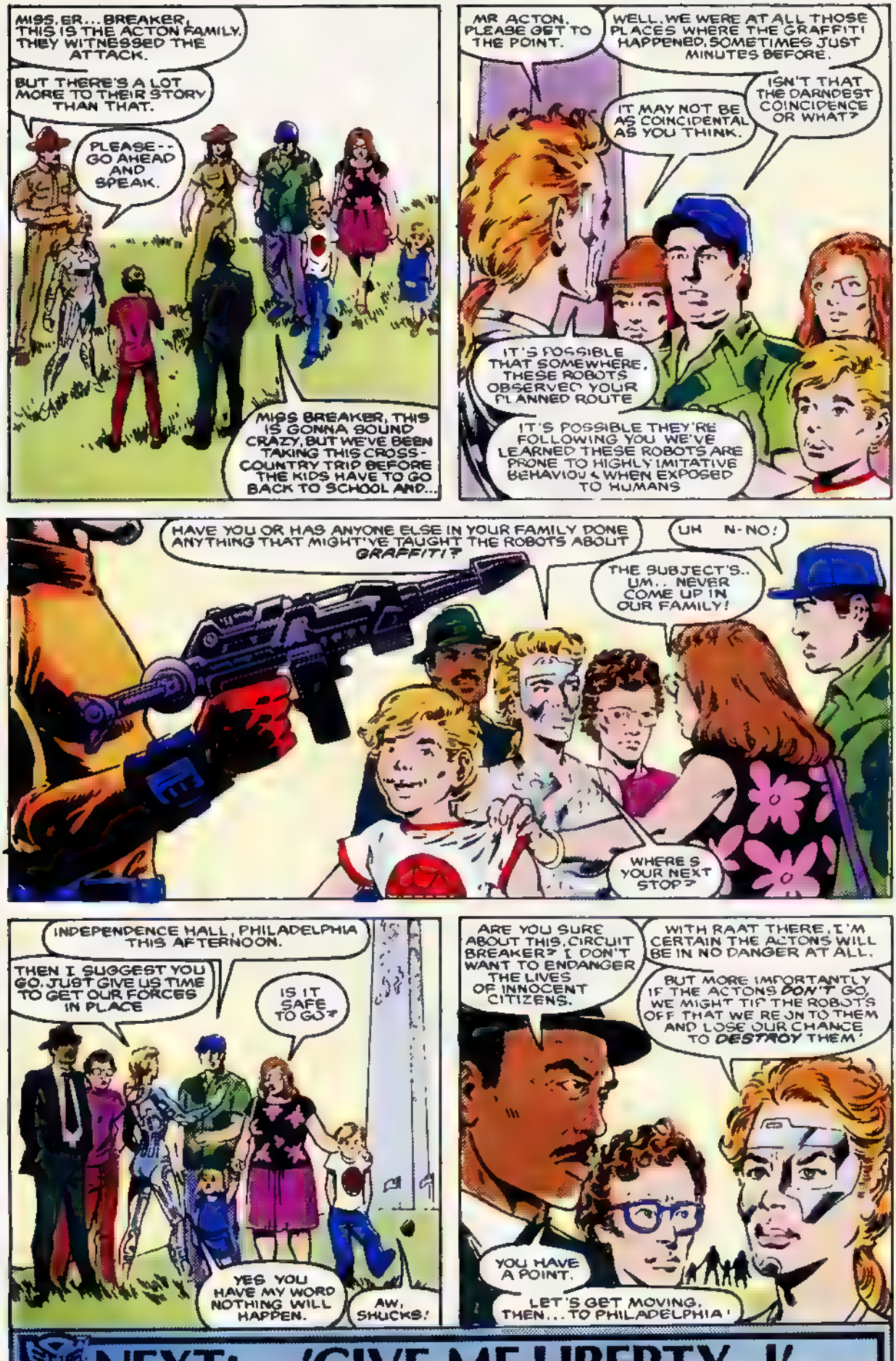

THERE! THAT DOES IT!

HUH? I DON'T GET IT.
GUESS WE WON'T BE GOING TO THE TOP OF THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT TODAY, SON!
I CAN'T MAKE OUT WHAT THEY WROTE EITHER.
AW, I DON'T CARE! THIS WAS BETTER THAN GOING INSIDE THAT OLD PILE OF BRICKS, ANYWAY!

HEH HEH! THAT WAS THE MOST FUN WE'VE HAD YET, RUNABOUT! HEH HEH HEH.
A MARVELOUS EXPERIENCE, RUNAMUCK! WE SIMPLY MUST STOP BY AGAIN SOME DAY!
BUT THESE FLESHLINGS--THEY NEVER GET AS ANGRY ABOUT WHAT WE WRITE AS THAT OTHER FLESHLING DID A FEW DAYS AGO IN THE PARKING LOT, RUNAMUCK.
CLUNK
BONK


YEAH. THEY JUST SEEM... CONFUSED.
NO DOUBT OUR WIT IS TOO SLYLY SUBTLE FOR THEM TO APPRECIATE.
YEAH, THAT'S IT! HEH HEH.

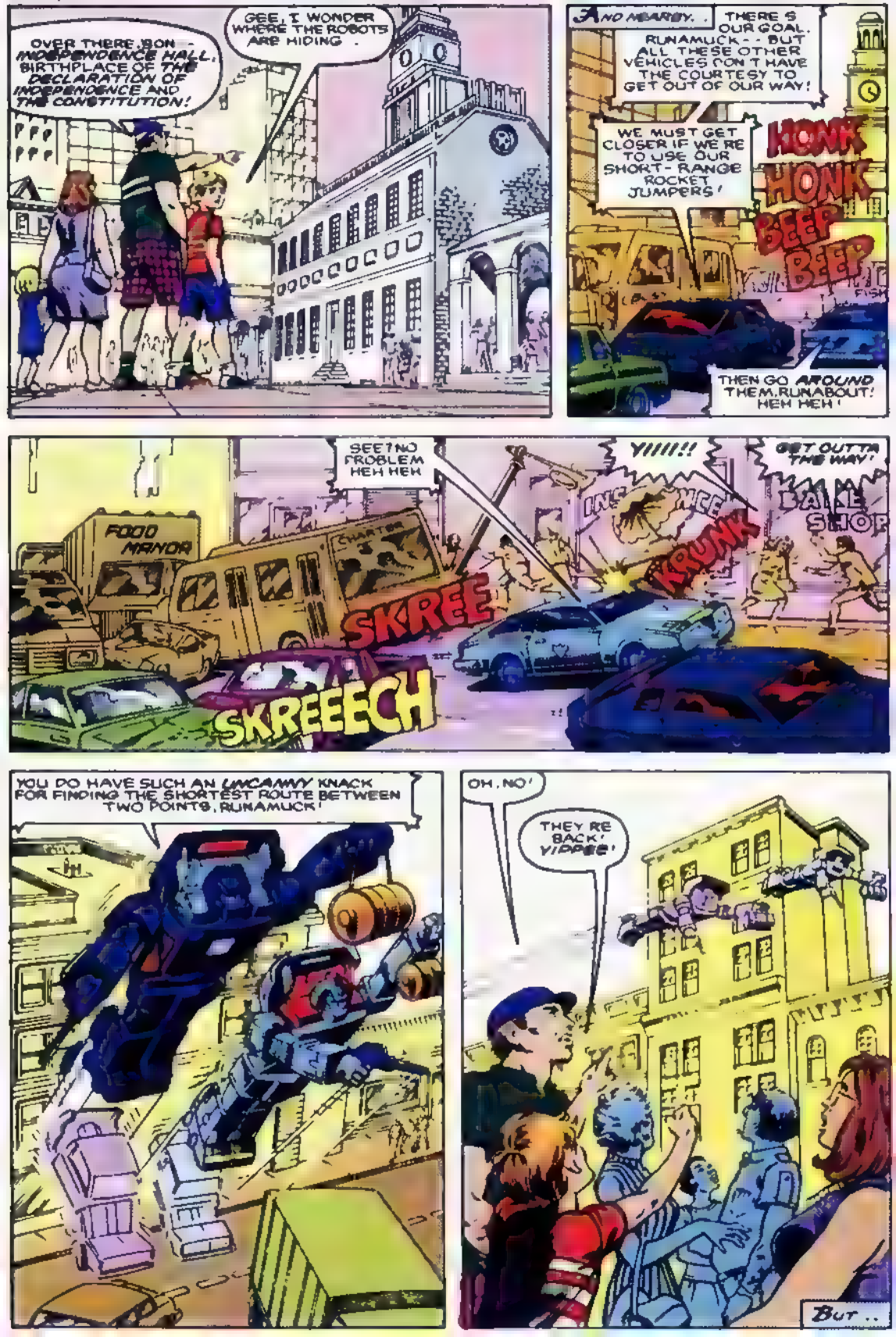

TWO HOURS LATER...
IT ALL HAPPENED SO FAST, THE TWO PERPETRATORS WERE GONE BEFORE WE COULD DO ANYTHING!
NO ONE IS SAFE IF THESE ROBOTS CAN STRIKE IN THE HEART OF OUR NATION'S CAPITAL AND GET AWAY WITH IT!
RAAT
RAAT
THEY WON'T GET AWAY WITH IT AGAIN! NEXT TIME, I'LL BE THERE!
ER, CIRCUIT BREAKER, MAYBE IF I CONTACTED THE AUTOBOTS AT THEIR BASE THEY WOULD HELP--
IF THEY'RE SUCH HEROES, FINKLEBERG, WHY ISN'T YOUR OPTIMUS PRIME HERE ALREADY?!
NO--BECAUSE EVERY TIME THEY TRIED TO HELP IN THE PAST HUMANS HAVE EITHER ATTACKED THEM..
...OR BETRAYED THEM.
WELL, UM..
I'LL TELL YOU WHY--BECAUSE THAT MACHINE IS PROBABLY BEHIND ALL THIS! THAT'S WHY!
IF I HADN'T TURNED IN SKIDS, I BET HE'D BE CALLING IN THE AUTOBOTS RIGHT NOW!

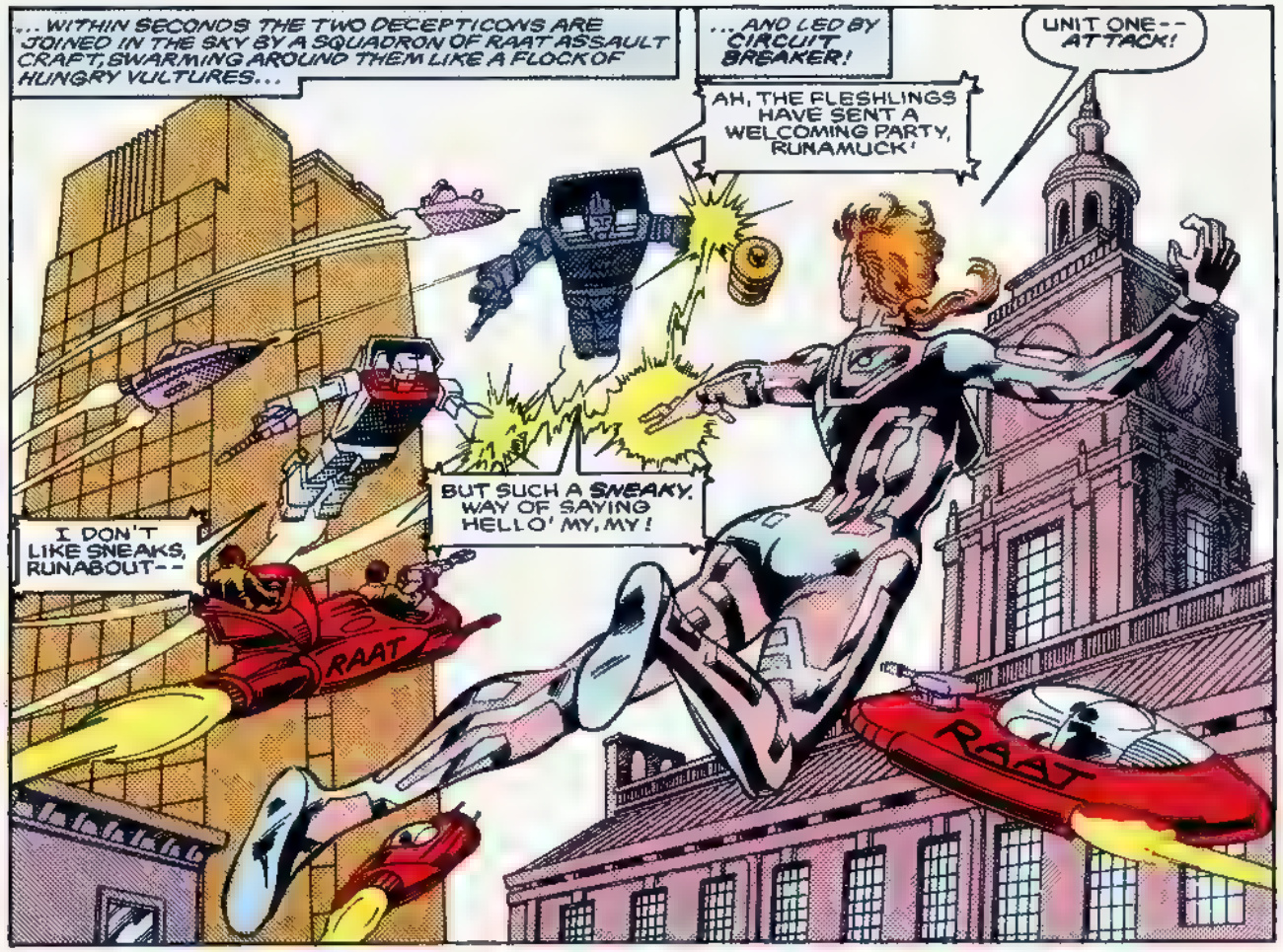

MISS. ER... BREAKER, THIS IS THE ACTON FAMILY. THEY WITNESSED THE ATTACK.
BUT THERE'S A LOT MORE TO THEIR STORY THAN THAT.
PLEASE-- GO AHEAD AND SPEAK.
MISS BREAKER, THIS IS GONNA SOUND CRAZY, BUT WE'VE BEEN TAKING THIS CROSS-COUNTRY TRIP BEFORE THE KIDS HAVE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND...
MR ACTON, PLEASE GET TO THE POINT.
WELL, WE WERE AT ALL THOSE PLACES WHERE THE GRAFFITI HAPPENED, SOMETIMES JUST MINUTES BEFORE.
ISN'T THAT THE DARNDEST COINCIDENCE OR WHAT?
IT MAY NOT BE AS COINCIDENTAL AS YOU THINK.
IT'S POSSIBLE THAT SOMEWHERE, THESE ROBOTS OBSERVED YOUR PLANNED ROUTE
IT'S POSSIBLE THEY'RE FOLLOWING YOU WE'VE LEARNED THESE ROBOTS ARE PRONE TO HIGHLY IMITATIVE BEHAVIOUR WHEN EXPOSED TO HUMANS
HAVE YOU OR HAS ANYONE ELSE IN YOUR FAMILY DONE ANYTHING THAT MIGHT'VE TAUGHT THE ROBOTS ABOUT GRAFFITI?
UH N-NO!
THE SUBJECT'S.. UM.. NEVER COME UP IN OUR FAMILY!
WHERE'S YOUR NEXT STOP?
INDEPENDENCE HALL, PHILADELPHIA THIS AFTERNOON.
THEN I SUGGEST YOU GO. JUST GIVE US TIME TO GET OUR FORCES IN PLACE
IS IT SAFE TO GO?
YES YOU HAVE MY WORD NOTHING WILL HAPPEN.
AW, SHUCKS!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, CIRCUIT BREAKER? I DON'T WANT TO ENDANGER THE LIVES OF INNOCENT CITIZENS.
WITH RAAT THERE, I'M CERTAIN THE ACTONS WILL BE IN NO DANGER AT ALL.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IF THE ACTONS DON'T GO, WE MIGHT TIP THE ROBOTS OFF THAT WE RE ON TO THEM AND LOSE OUR CHANCE TO DESTROY THEM!
YOU HAVE A POINT.
LET'S GET MOVING, THEN... TO PHILADELPHIA!
NEXT: 'GIVE ME LIBERTY..!'

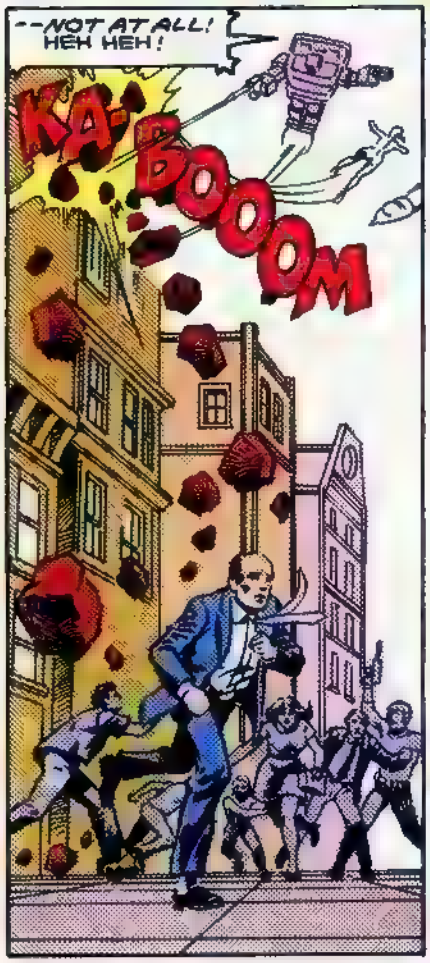
MARVEL™
10th Jan. 87
№95 30p
US $1.25 CAN $1.75

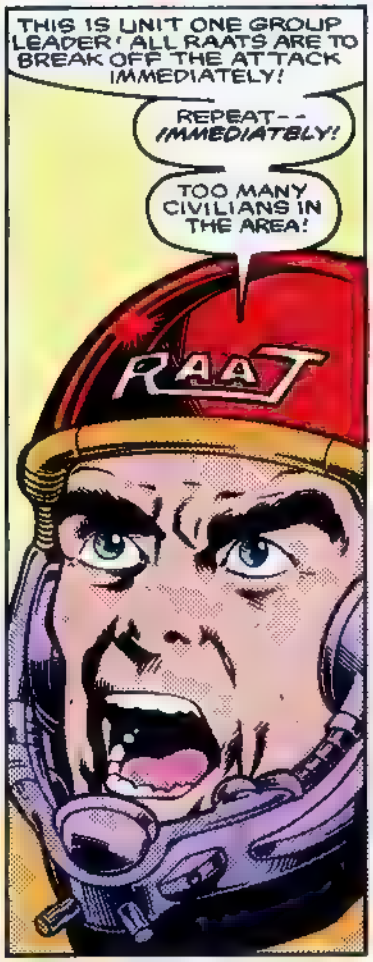
# THE TRANSFORMERS™

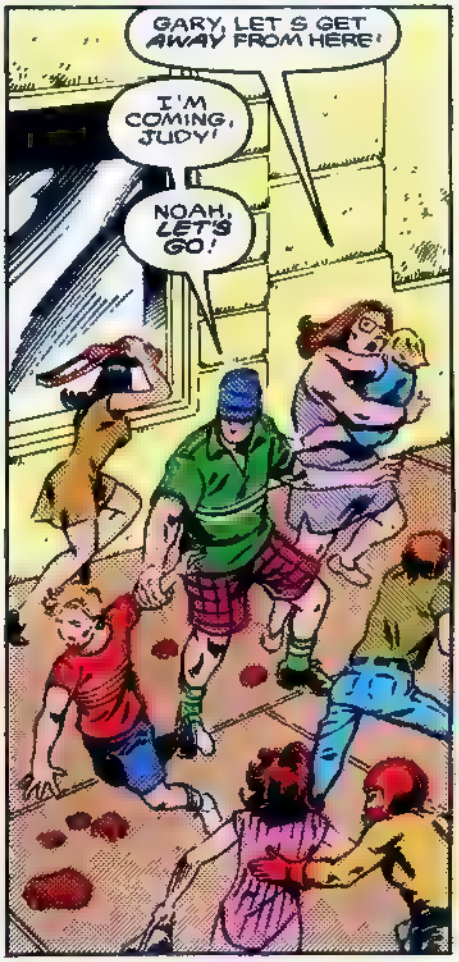
HEROIC AUTOBOT

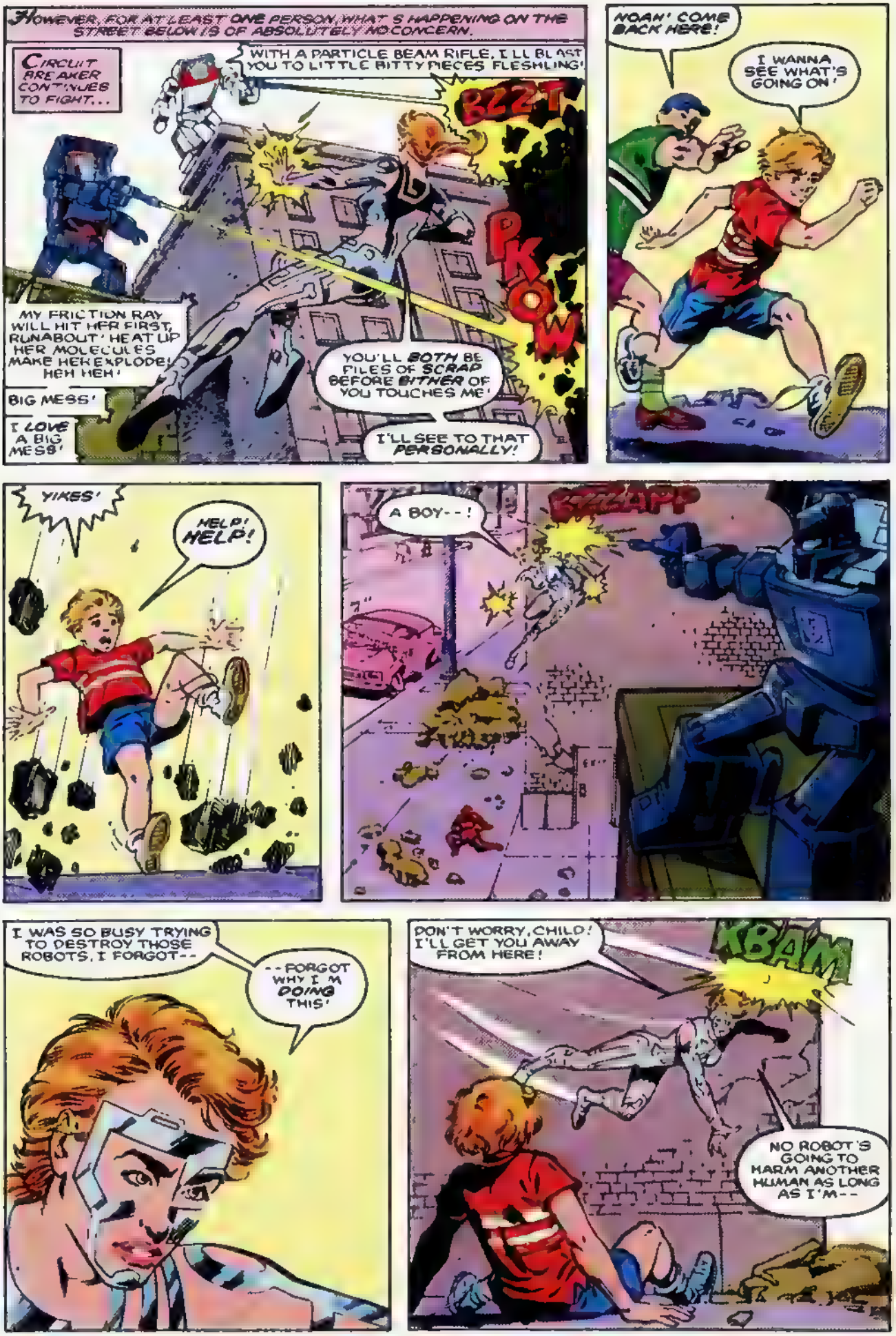

OVER THERE, BON - INDEPENDENCE HALL. BIRTHPLACE OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE AND THE CONSTITUTION!
GEE, I WONDER WHERE THE ROBOTS ARE HIDING.
AND MEANWHILE..
THERE'S OUR GOAL. RUNAMUCK - - BUT ALL THESE OTHER VEHICLES DON'T HAVE THE COURTESY TO GET OUT OF OUR WAY!
WE MUST GET CLOSER IF WE'RE TO USE OUR SHORT-RANGE ROCKET JUMPERS!
HONK HONK
BEEP BEEP
THEN GO AROUND THEM, RUNABOUT! HEH HEH!
SEE? NO PROBLEM HEH HEH
YIIII!!
GET OUTTA THE WAY!
FOOD MANOR
CHARTER
SKREE
SKREEECH
KRUNK
BAKE SHOP
YOU DO HAVE SUCH AN UNCANNY KNACK FOR FINDING THE SHORTEST ROUTE BETWEEN TWO POINTS, RUNAMUCK!
OH, NO!
THEY'RE BACK! YIPPEE!
BUT..


...WITHIN SECONDS THE TWO DECEPTICONS ARE JOINED IN THE SKY BY A SQUADRON OF RAAT ASSAULT CRAFT, SWARMING AROUND THEM LIKE A FLOCK OF HUNGRY VULTURES...
...AND LED BY CIRCUIT BREAKER!
AH, THE FLESHLINGS HAVE SENT A WELCOMING PARTY, RUNAMUCK!
UNIT ONE--ATTACK!
BUT SUCH A SNEAKY WAY OF SAYING HELLO! MY, MY!
I DON'T LIKE SNEAKS, RUNABOUT--
RAAT
RAAT

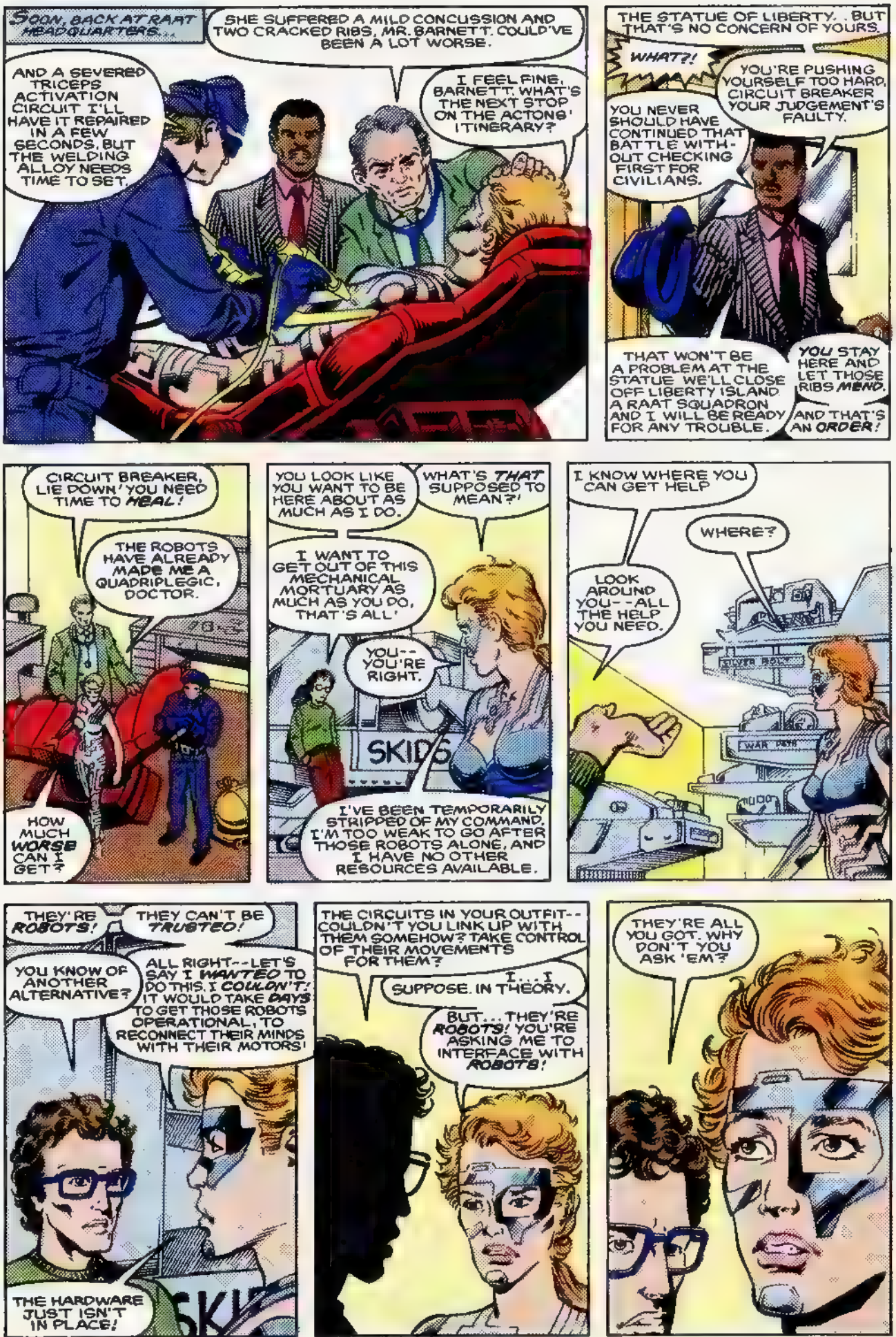

--NOT AT ALL! HEH HEH!
KA-BOOOM


THIS IS UNIT ONE GROUP LEADER! ALL RAATS ARE TO BREAK OFF THE ATTACK IMMEDIATELY!
REPEAT--IMMEDIATELY!
TOO MANY CIVILIANS IN THE AREA!
RAAT


GARY, LET'S GET AWAY FROM HERE!
I'M COMING, JUDY!
NOAH, LET'S GO!

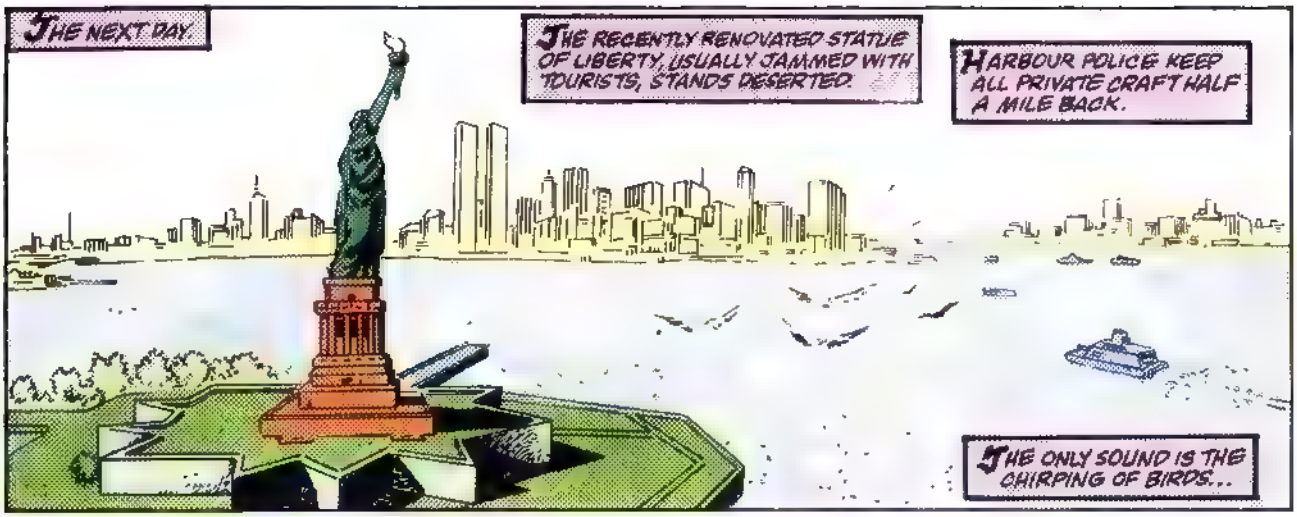

HOWEVER, FOR AT LEAST ONE PERSON, WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE STREET BELOW IS OF ABSOLUTELY NO CONCERN.
CIRCUIT BREAKER CONTINUES TO FIGHT...
WITH A PARTICLE BEAM RIFLE, I'LL BLAST YOU TO LITTLE BITTY PIECES FLESHLING!
BZZT
PKOW
MY FRICTION RAY WILL HIT HER FIRST, RUNABOUT! HEAT UP HER MOLECULES MAKE HER EXPLODE! HEH HEH!
YOU'LL BOTH BE PILES OF SCRAP BEFORE EITHER OF YOU TOUCHES ME!
I'LL SEE TO THAT PERSONALLY!
BIG MESS!
I LOVE A BIG MESS!
NOAH! COME BACK HERE!
I WANNA SEE WHAT'S GOING ON!
YIKES!
HELP! HELP!
A BOY--!
KZZAP!
I WAS SO BUSY TRYING TO DESTROY THOSE ROBOTS, I FORGOT--
--FORGOT WHY I'M DOING THIS!
DON'T WORRY, CHILD! I'LL GET YOU AWAY FROM HERE!
KBAM
NO ROBOT'S GOING TO HARM ANOTHER HUMAN AS LONG AS I'M--

UNGHH!
KBLAM
I'M AFRAID WE WON'T GET A CHANCE TO SHARE OUR PROSE WITH THE FLESHLINGS THIS AFTERNOON, RUNAMUCK. TOO MANY INTERRUPTIONS!
TOO BAD, RUNABOUT! I BET THEY WOULD'VE GOTTEN THE JOKES THIS TIME! HEH HEH!
THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW RUNAMUCK. SHALL WE TAKE OUR LEAVE?
K-R-A-K-K-K-K
M-MISS--YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?
I'M SORRY. SORRY I FORGOT
STAY BACK! DON'T TOUCH HER!
SOMEONE CALL THE AMBULANCE!


SOON, BACK AT RAAT HEADQUARTERS...
SHE SUFFERED A MILD CONCUSSION AND TWO CRACKED RIBS, MR. BARNETT. COULD'VE BEEN A LOT WORSE.
AND A SEVERED TRICEPS ACTIVATION CIRCUIT I'LL HAVE IT REPAIRED IN A FEW SECONDS. BUT THE WELDING ALLOY NEEDS TIME TO SET.
I FEEL FINE, BARNETT. WHAT'S THE NEXT STOP ON THE ACTONE ITINERARY?
THE STATUE OF LIBERTY. . BUT THAT'S NO CONCERN OF YOURS.
WHAT?!
YOU'RE PUSHING YOURSELF TOO HARD, CIRCUIT BREAKER. YOUR JUDGEMENT'S FAULTY.
YOU NEVER SHOULD HAVE CONTINUED THAT BATTLE WITHOUT CHECKING FIRST FOR CIVILIANS.
THAT WON'T BE A PROBLEM AT THE STATUE. WE'LL CLOSE OFF LIBERTY ISLAND A RAAT SQUADRON AND I WILL BE READY FOR ANY TROUBLE.
YOU STAY HERE AND LET THOSE RIBS MEND.
AND THAT'S AN ORDER!
CIRCUIT BREAKER, LIE DOWN! YOU NEED TIME TO HEAL!
THE ROBOTS HAVE ALREADY MADE ME A QUADRIPLEGIC, DOCTOR.
HOW MUCH WORSE CAN I GET?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU WANT TO BE HERE ABOUT AS MUCH AS I DO.
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?!
I WANT TO GET OUT OF THIS MECHANICAL MORTUARY AS MUCH AS YOU DO, THAT'S ALL!
YOU--YOU'RE RIGHT.
SKIDS
I'VE BEEN TEMPORARILY STRIPPED OF MY COMMAND. I'M TOO WEAK TO GO AFTER THOSE ROBOTS ALONE, AND I HAVE NO OTHER RESOURCES AVAILABLE.
I KNOW WHERE YOU CAN GET HELP
WHERE?
LOOK AROUND YOU--ALL THE HELP YOU NEED.
SILVER BOLT
WAR PATH
THEY'RE ROBOTS!
THEY CAN'T BE TRUSTED!
YOU KNOW OF ANOTHER ALTERNATIVE?
ALL RIGHT--LET'S SAY I WANTED TO DO THIS. I COULDN'T! IT WOULD TAKE DAYS TO GET THOSE ROBOTS OPERATIONAL, TO RECONNECT THEIR MINDS WITH THEIR MOTORS!
THE HARDWARE JUST ISN'T IN PLACE!
THE CIRCUITS IN YOUR OUTFIT--COULDN'T YOU LINK UP WITH THEM SOMEHOW? TAKE CONTROL OF THEIR MOVEMENTS FOR THEM?
I... I SUPPOSE. IN THEORY.
BUT... THEY'RE ROBOTS! YOU'RE ASKING ME TO INTERFACE WITH ROBOTS!
THEY'RE ALL YOU GOT. WHY DON'T YOU ASK 'EM?

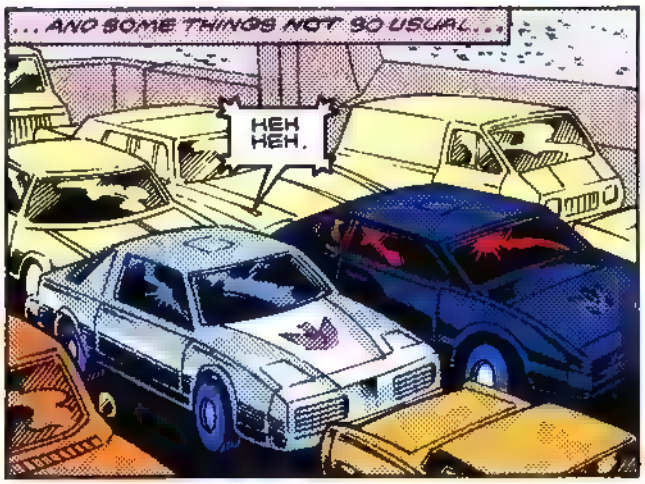


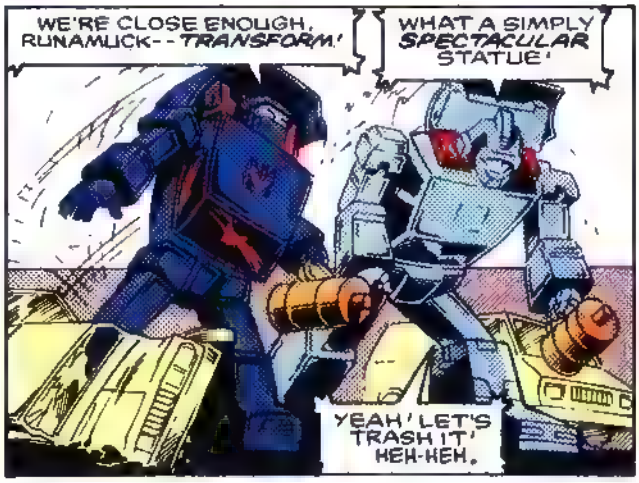
CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

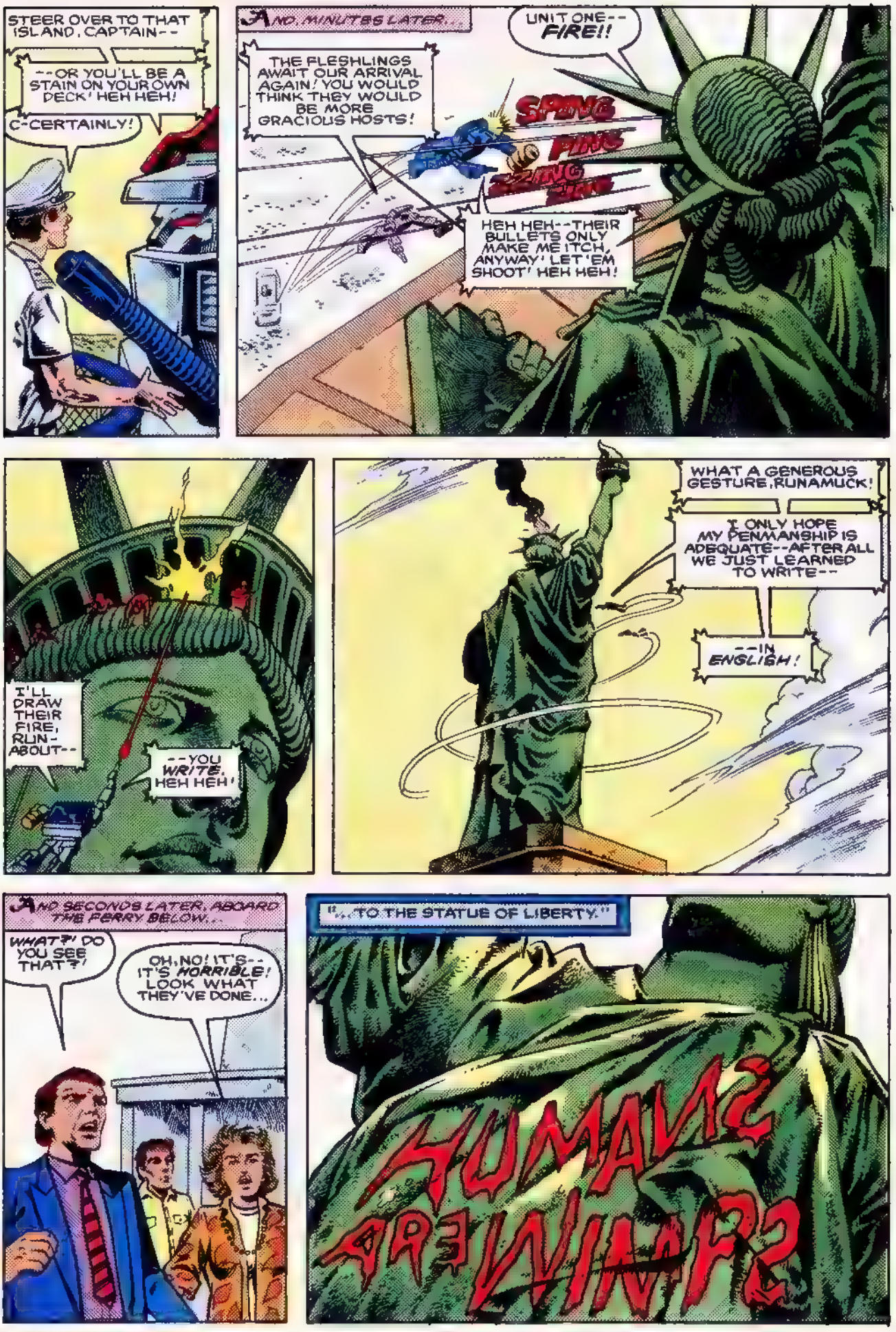

THE NEXT DAY.
THE RECENTLY RENOVATED STATUE OF LIBERTY, USUALLY JAMMED WITH TOURISTS, STANDS DESERTED.
HARBOUR POLICE KEEP ALL PRIVATE CRAFT HALF A MILE BACK.
THE ONLY SOUND IS THE CHIRPING OF BIRDS...

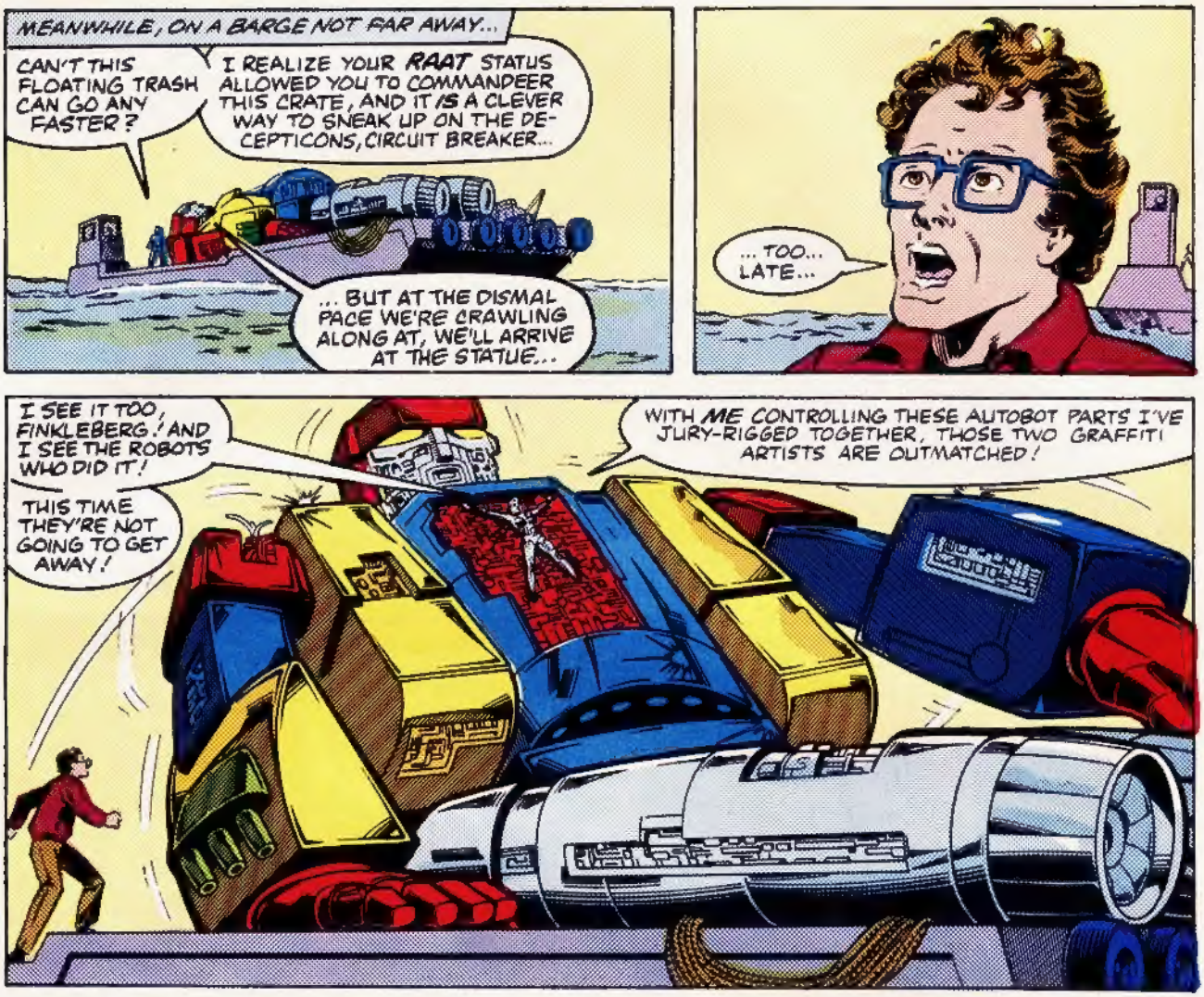
...BIRDS DISTURBED BY RAAT COMMANDOS TAKING POSITIONS.

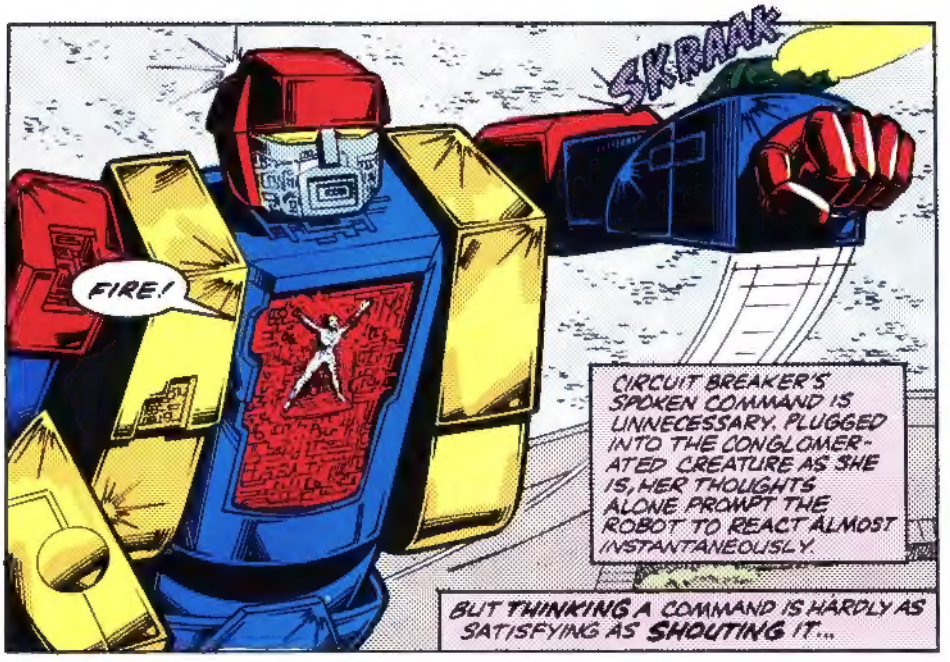
MEANWHILE, LESS THAN TWO MILES AWAY, THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY CHUGS ACROSS THE WATERS OF UPPER NEW YORK BAY, HAULING ITS USUAL CARGO OF COMMUTERS AND THEIR CARS...

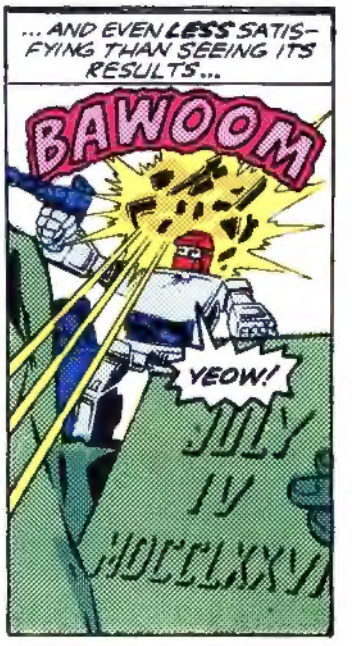

...AND SOME THINGS NOT SO USUAL...
HEH HEH.

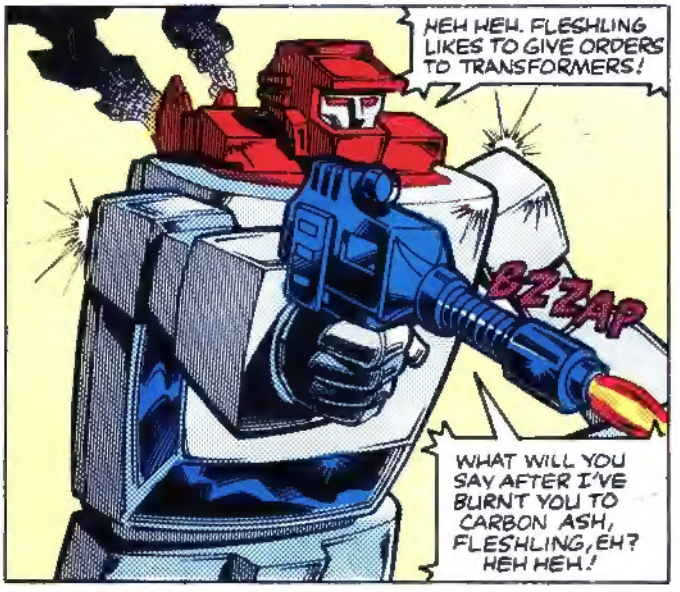

WE'RE CLOSE ENOUGH, RUNAMUCK--TRANSFORM!
WHAT A SIMPLY SPECTACULAR STATUE!
YEAH! LET'S TRASH IT! HEH-HEH.


STEER OVER TO THAT ISLAND, CAPTAIN--
--OR YOU'LL BE A STAIN ON YOUR OWN DECK! HEH HEH!
C-CERTAINLY!
AND MINUTES LATER...
UNIT ONE--FIRE!!
THE FLESHLINGS AWAIT OUR ARRIVAL AGAIN! YOU WOULD THINK THEY WOULD BE MORE GRACIOUS HOSTS!
SPANG
PING
ZZING
HEH HEH--THEIR BULLETS ONLY MAKE ME ITCH, ANYWAY! LET 'EM SHOOT! HEH HEH!
I'LL DRAW THEIR FIRE, RUN-ABOUT--
--YOU WRITE. HEH HEH!
WHAT A GENEROUS GESTURE, RUNAMUCK!
I ONLY HOPE MY PENMANSHIP IS ADEQUATE--AFTER ALL WE JUST LEARNED TO WRITE--
--IN ENGLISH!
AND SECONDS LATER, ABOARD THE FERRY BELOW...
WHAT?! DO YOU SEE THAT?!
OH, NO! IT'S--IT'S HORRIBLE! LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE...
"...TO THE STATUE OF LIBERTY."
HUMANS ARE VILE?!


MEANWHILE, ON A BARGE NOT FAR AWAY...
CAN'T THIS FLOATING TRASH CAN GO ANY FASTER?
I REALIZE YOUR RAAT STATUS ALLOWED YOU TO COMMANDEER THIS CRATE, AND IT IS A CLEVER WAY TO SNEAK UP ON THE DECEPTICONS, CIRCUIT BREAKER...
... BUT AT THE DISMAL PACE WE'RE CRAWLING ALONG AT, WE'LL ARRIVE AT THE STATUE...
... TOO... LATE...
I SEE IT TOO, FINKLEBERG! AND I SEE THE ROBOTS WHO DID IT!
THIS TIME THEY'RE NOT GOING TO GET AWAY!
WITH ME CONTROLLING THESE AUTOBOT PARTS I'VE JURY-RIGGED TOGETHER, THOSE TWO GRAFFITI ARTISTS ARE OUTMATCHED!
ATTACK, AUTOBOTS!
SUCH A PERFECTLY AWFUL-LOOKING MONSTROSITY, RUNAMUCK! WHATEVER COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?
BZZAP
BZOWW
SHOOT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER, RUNABOUT! HEH HEH HEH!


SKRAAK
FIRE!
CIRCUIT BREAKER'S SPOKEN COMMAND IS UNNECESSARY. PLUGGED INTO THE CONGLOMERATED CREATURE AS SHE IS, HER THOUGHTS ALONE PROMPT THE ROBOT TO REACT ALMOST INSTANTANEOUSLY.
BUT THINKING A COMMAND IS HARDLY AS SATISFYING AS SHOUTING IT...

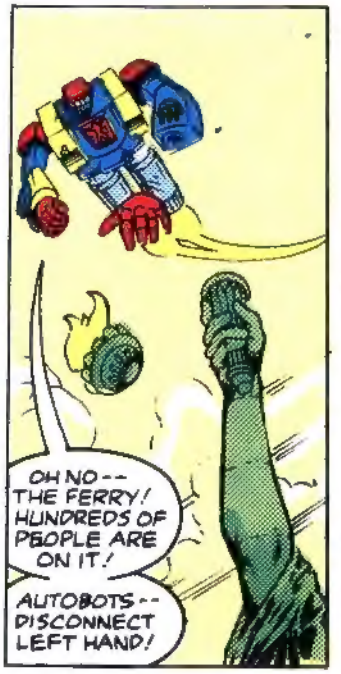

... AND EVEN LESS SATISFYING THAN SEEING ITS RESULTS...
BAWOOM
YEOW!

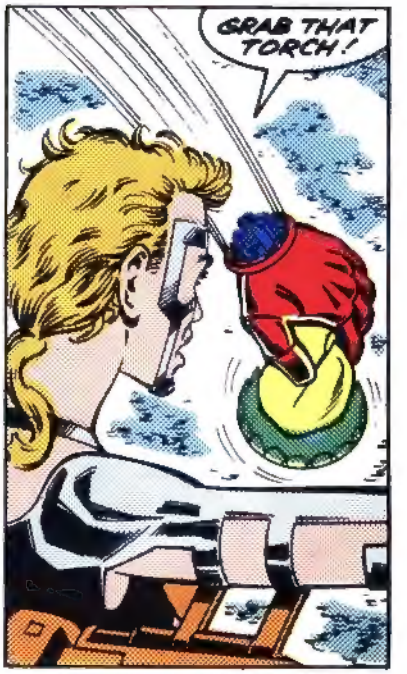

HEH HEH. FLESHLING LIKES TO GIVE ORDERS TO TRANSFORMERS!
BZZAP
WHAT WILL YOU SAY AFTER I'VE BURNT YOU TO CARBON ASH, FLESHLING, EH? HEH HEH!

PAOW!

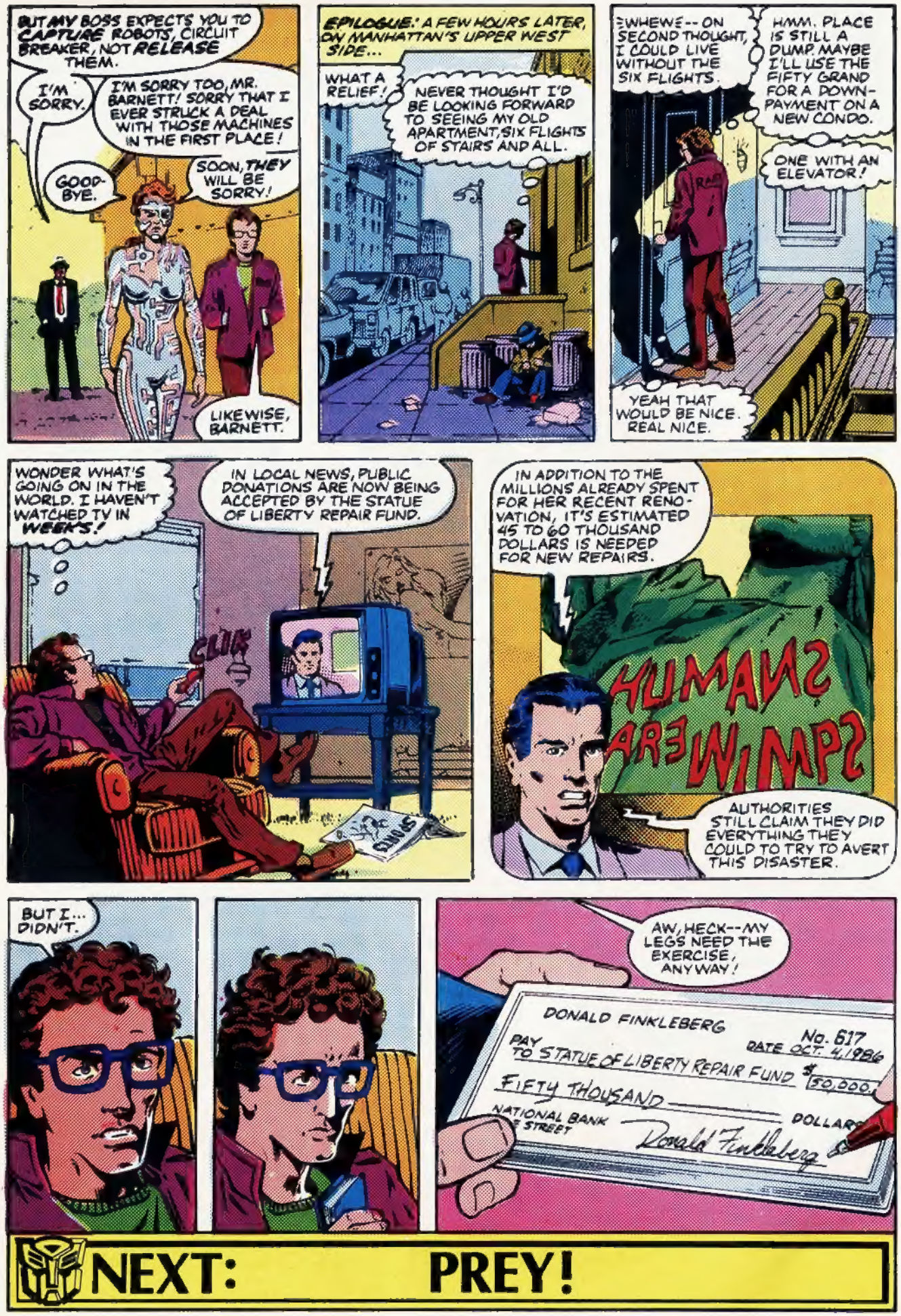
I DIDN'T COMMAND IT TO PROTECT ME--I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME!
IT... IT DID IT ON ITS OWN!

KBLAM
GOODNESS GRACIOUS! I MISSED!


OH NO--THE FERRY! HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE ARE ON IT!
AUTOBOTS--DISCONNECT LEFT HAND!


GRAB THAT TORCH!

THIS ISN'T SO MUCH FUN ANYMORE, RUNABOUT.
AGREED, RUNAMUCK! THE FLESHLING'S SENSE OF HUMOUR IS SORELY LACKING!
HEH.
AH, BUT IT IS I WHO HAVE THE LAST LAUGH, ROBOTS!
HA HA HA!
KBLAM
KBLAM
SPLISH
SPLASH
SEVERAL HOURS LATER, AT RAAT HEADQUARTERS...
THAT WAS A JOB WELL DONE, EVEN THOUGH YOU DID VIOLATE ORDERS.
RAAT
RAPID ANTI-ROBOT ATTACK TEAM
BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I'M FIRING YOU TWO.
WHAT?!
REALLY?!
THAT'S WHY.
THIRTEEN TRANSFORMERS--ALL GONE.
I DIDN'T WANT TO LET THEM GO, MR. BARNETT, BUT THAT WAS THE DEAL I HAD TO MAKE TO GET THEIR COOPERATION.
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE.
I KNOW YOU MEANT WELL.


BUT MY BOSS EXPECTS YOU TO CAPTURE ROBOTS, CIRCUIT BREAKER, NOT RELEASE THEM.
I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY TOO, MR. BARNETT! SORRY THAT I EVER STRUCK A DEAL WITH THOSE MACHINES IN THE FIRST PLACE!
GOOD-BYE.
SOON, THEY WILL BE SORRY!
LIKEWISE, BARNETT.
EPILOGUE: A FEW HOURS LATER, ON MANHATTAN'S UPPER WEST SIDE...
WHAT A RELIEF!
NEVER THOUGHT I'D BE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING MY OLD APARTMENT, SIX FLIGHTS OF STAIRS AND ALL.
WHEW-- ON SECOND THOUGHT, I COULD LIVE WITHOUT THE SIX FLIGHTS.
HMM. PLACE IS STILL A DUMP. MAYBE I'LL USE THE FIFTY GRAND FOR A DOWN-PAYMENT ON A NEW CONDO.
ONE WITH AN ELEVATOR!
YEAH THAT WOULD BE NICE. REAL NICE.
WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON IN THE WORLD. I HAVEN'T WATCHED TV IN WEEKS!
IN LOCAL NEWS, PUBLIC DONATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED BY THE STATUE OF LIBERTY REPAIR FUND.
CLICK
IN ADDITION TO THE MILLIONS ALREADY SPENT FOR HER RECENT RENOVATION, IT'S ESTIMATED 45 TO 60 THOUSAND DOLLARS IS NEEDED FOR NEW REPAIRS.
HUMANS ARE WIMPS
AUTHORITIES STILL CLAIM THEY DID EVERYTHING THEY COULD TO TRY TO AVERT THIS DISASTER.
BUT I... DIDN'T.
AW, HECK-- MY LEGS NEED THE EXERCISE, ANYWAY!
DONALD FINKLEBERG
No. 617
DATE OCT. 4, 1986
PAY TO STATUE OF LIBERTY REPAIR FUND
$ 50,000.
FIFTY THOUSAND
DOLLARS
NATIONAL BANK
STREET
Donald Finkleberg
NEXT: PREY!